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# THE BLUE GRASS BLADE

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JAMES E. HUGHES ..... Editor and Publisher

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It is your move.

Let everybody get busy.

Hitch your chariot to a star.

We can all win out if we only half try.

Orthodox religion sours the milk of human kindness.

The saintly sinner always looks as if his religion hurt him.

God and gunpowder are not on terms of a speaking acquaintanceship.

Heaven is only desirable on the condition that our companions will be pleasant and agreeable.

Carnegie says he wouldn't kill the bee while it was making honey, but he was probably never stung.

While officially investigating the alleged grafts would it not be well to include the "All for Jesus" bunk?

It is reported that there are eight editors in the French Cabinet, but in America we have eighteen.

France has demonstrated the real meaning in that famous declaration once sent broadcast through the American continent and long to be remembered as "Our flag above the cross."

After voting themselves out of railroad passes, and most everybody else, members of the House of Representatives have decided to raise their own salaries. Sure, they ought to know how much they are worth.

We want our friends to help us to double the circulation of the Blade during the coming year. With such a list of subscribers we could soon become an immense power for good. We must afford to put paid money in the field and must depend upon our family of readers.

The cornerstone of Free thought is a true manhood, its object is fraternity, its ultimate is liberty in its fullest sense, and its principles are as broad as the universe itself. Liberty cannot be confined within prescribed notes and bounds and it means the same in every land.

The Christ is horn racket has been worked over so much that it now resembles a threadbare patched up old garment, with little of the original left. It is still useful, however, and serves the same old purpose of enabling the sky-pilots to rake in the cash and do a land-office business.

If God is the creator and the cause of all things he must stand accused of being responsible for all the sin and sorrow, the suffering and shame that since the dawn of history has bedewed the world with blood and tears. Even the Christian would ought to know that mankind would be better without such a god than with him.

What the Blade hopes to accomplish is to convince orthodox Christians that all sects, all bibles and gods are essentially the same; that they are committing a crime against posterity when they vince orthodox Christians that all sects, all bibles that they know no more of the alleged omnipotent than do other men. Then will our work be done.

Lexington is free from the itinerant evangelists once more. After working their patrons for all the spare cash in sight they have hoofed it over the plains with their coat tails full of raves, making a quiet sneak on a half-fare ticket, leaving their converts to blackslide for the joy of being converted

again on the next trip. This kind of merchandise is fast becoming a drug on the market.

As to President Roosevelt's suggestion that the boys in our public schools be taught the use of arms there is no doubt, if there are enough to go round, that it will receive the endorsement of the girls. If the President meant "firearms" or the implements of war then Roosevelt is on the wrong track. Remember that peace hath her victories far greater than war can bring.

Blade readers must not make the mistake of supposing that the published items about Mr. Rockefeller shaking hands with the newspaper men at church, are given publication because of the public's great and absorbing interest in Mr. Rockefeller. Not at all. The average scribe knows his business. The items are used simply to correct the mistaken notion that newspaper men do not usually attend church.

They have such a funny way of determining things in Chicago. Her judiciary are so vastly different from judges in other parts of the country. A windy city judge recently fined a man ten dollars for beating his mule and only \$2.50 for beating his wife. Thus are the relative values of mules and wives determined by Chicagoese. It might have been decided on the hypothesis that the wife could leave if she wanted to but the mule had to stay and take what was coming.

Marriage and divorce is in the air. It took the divorce congress to find six causes, or grounds, for the dissolution of the marriage vows. A bachelor has figured it out that these constitute six times as many causes as exist for marriage at all. It took St. Louis court, however, to cap the climax by deciding that sixty cents per annum is an insufficient allowance for a wife's wardrobe. It now stands accused of discouraging marriage altogether.

It is gratifying to know that Congress will soon convene, but what a pity it should come so soon. Our political doctors have failed to inform us whether or not they oppose to prescribe for us some more or in what direction. We would suggest that public happiness might be enhanced if they could only be induced to place an import tax on penny and agree to let fiddle-strings come in on the free list. Could this be done we all might have enough money to burn.

## POPES, POLITICS AND PETTICOATS

Could the whole truth be known, and nothing but the truth, there is no telling to what seditions, plots and intrigues, involving political and religious leaders both in America and Europe, the Roosevelt-Storer controversy might lead to.

After reading through the statements by both sides the Blade is forced to the conclusion that there exists in the wrangle much that could cause the thoughtless to indulge in a quiet smile, but there is really enough to make the thinking people grope. We have revealed to us a secret plan whereby the leader of a political party sought to bribe the leaders of the Catholic church, in America, by extending official influences in the direction of personal aggrandizement in return for a support to his political party, and prelates of the Roman hierarchy falling in with the scheme in order to further their own interests.

But what is the result. Briefly stated they may be summoned in something like the following:

Roosevelt's gag in the political policy wheel failed to work.

An American would-be "ambassadress" is out of a job.

Bellamy Storer now knows that he is not as great a man as Choate or he would have acted differently.

Ireland will never live to wear a red hat.

Each one of the participants wishes it hadn't been so.

Personally, the Blade is not acquainted with either of the principals in this politico-religious farce comedy. We know of each by reputation. It is evident, however, that all the trouble sprang from Mrs. Storer's pernicious activity in and her zeal for the cause so dear to her heart, and her propensity for meddling in things that should not have concerned her in the least. True, she has money, but that does not give her strength of character. She is described by some of the modern newspapers with being a remarkable "smart woman," but it seems that she was not smart enough to get away with the goods. Judging from her photographs, already published, she might be capable of earning a living, if she had to, in a steam laundry, or making pie, while hubby looks to be a pliable sort of a fellow, ready to enter a game of chance, provided his wife says so, and who is capable of following where a stronger mind will lead. As for Roosevelt, well, the Blade is disappointed, for we had expected better from him, as we had grown to regard him as an ideal American sovereign because of his determination, self-reliance, and the lack of imitation in his make-up. But poor Ireland. For years he has cast longing eyes at Rome and had really come to regard "red" as his favorite color. Now he has the "blues" and his jig is up for all time.

The one great question underlying all this, however, is not as to which of the controversialists may be right, or which may be wrong but the damnable conspiracy entered into for the purpose of using the Catholic church in American politics and to use American politics to secure favors for certain persons from the Catholic church. The expected profits from such a transaction were evidently mutual. Both sides expected to win and the people were to stand for it all. Political and religious humbuggery combining for spoils. This is the sorry spectacle presented and it is only that

these "rogues fall out" that the truth has been made known in time to avert such a conclusion.

Every unbiased reader of this discussion must admit that the motive behind it all was a serious menace to the independence of and from each other of church and state. The constitutional mandate in America is that each must be kept separate and apart, performing their respective functions in their own way. If American presidents must negotiate with the Vatican, through its accredited ambassadors, then indeed is the republic lost. While Roosevelt may deny and heap implied calumny upon the putty head of Bellamy Storer, the fact remains that the Storer's side of this affair is corroborated by the letter which Ireland wrote to Mrs. Storer and the further fact that what Roosevelt actually did say was written down and read to the Pope in order that no mistake might be made in repeating when it came time to play ball. Under the circumstances it is certain and positive that Roosevelt's denial is not as convincing as it should be and it will not convince until Ireland denies having written that letter which he has so far failed to do. The whole lot of it seems to have been plunged into a sea of religious intrigue and conspiracy whose waves may yet engulf them in shame.

The subterfuge in which Roosevelt takes refuge lies in an expression that is cruelly suggestive. He denies that he ever authorized any direct request to be made in his name that Ireland be made a cardinal, but he did sanction the statement that such an appointment by the Vatican would afford him "gratification." This, in itself was wrong, as being an actual, personal endorsement of Ireland, by the highest officer of the American republic, for an official distinction which only the Vatican can confer. The whole secret being out, Roosevelt sought to escape from the condemnation he justly deserved by firing the Storer's from their diplomatic post, and the Storer's have got even by exposing the arrant rascality of the undertaking. The superficial facts in the case make up one of the most exasperating episodes in all the annals of American diplomacy. The argument lies against Roosevelt that this transaction derogates from his fitness and capacity to occupy the high station he is now filling by virtue of the American people and that in getting the Storer's out of the diplomatic service the public weal has been enhanced considerably. Were it possible to eliminate the religious envy and hatred that have crept into the affair, and the political ambition of a political party leader, there would be little left to fight over. As matters now stand it appears to be a case of the "pot calling the kettle black" and each of the actors is tarred with the same brush.

## AMERICAN PEOPLE BECOMING

### A RACE OF INFIDELS

The voice of the tempter is again heard in the land and the Romish Church is once more clamoring for a public patronage of its parochial schools by endowing it with a share of the public school funds.

In the latest plea made by the representatives of the Roman hierarchy, the Monitor published at Newark, New Jersey, a distinctive Romanist or clericalist claim is made that the Romish religion be kept out of the common public schools is not a just interpretation of the constitutional rights of American citizenship in that to keep religion out of the schools implies a deprivation of rights.

This argument is in keeping with all other claims made by this religious organization. To them there are no rights but their rights. No claim so just as their claim. No privilege so absurd but that it should be granted to them on demand. Did it ever occur to this exclusive congregation, or its representatives, that when public funds are to be used in the promulgation of religion through the public school system, then all religions should be placed upon an equal footing? Did they ever pause long enough to think that if the parochial schools under the domination of the Romish church were entitled, by constitutional right, to a share in the common school fund, then the same rights would accrue to every other religious organization, totally different in character, and Free thinkers would have the same right to establish schools to be supported by public taxation for the dissemination of anti-Christian instruction? The Jew, the Buddhist, the Brahmin, the Mohammedan, in fact, all religions must be equally considered with them. Where would such a policy lead us? Evidently, the best and safest method, is to allow no portion of the public treasury to be used for religious instruction in any manner and no body of worshippers is deprived of any rights guaranteed by the federal constitution. To take the funds created by general taxation for school purposes and apply them to the dissemination of Roman Catholicism is a flagrant violation of the constitutional rights of the believers in every other denomination as well as Liberals, Agnostics and unbelievers in religion, in that they would be required to contribute their pro-rata towards the propaganda of the Romish church, a course at variance with their personal wishes.

Besides, to deny an apportionment of the public school fund to the Romish schools is not a deprivation of any right. The right of religious freedom, to worship god according to the dictates of one's own conscience, does not imply that public money must be spent to propagate the creedal doctrines of any particular sect, or all the sects. The freedom of public worship is still intact. The Roman Catholics are guaranteed and protected in their right to the establishment of churches and schools in which to promulgate their particular doctrines, but they must be required to support them according to their own resources. The government can no more undertake to support by public money the private schools of any religious sect than it can

undertake to build schools for their private use and compel all people to support and maintain them by a direct tax upon all the people. It follows then that as the government cannot justly undertake to teach all religions, it should teach none. At the same time, no matter how much government may sanction religion, it must not undertake to compel a public support of religion, in any form, by using the public treasury to that end.

The principal cause of this complaint, however, lies not so much in the failure of the government to give support to the parochial schools, but its motive is bottomed upon the general and wholesale dread that all religion is destined to wither and die, to become completely eradicated from the hearts and minds of men, and it is the dying wail of a once powerful organization. Passing from the general complaint of non-support, the following diatribe is given, wherein the whole secret is laid bare. Let us read:

"It must be manifest to any observing man that religion is dying away from the hearts of our people. Millions are giving up the practice of religion. They are indifferent to its teachings. They never enter a church; they never say a prayer; they never give a thought to their soul or to their eternity. All this is so evident that no one cares to deny it. Religion must be taught and fostered or the American people will cease to be a Christian people. They will be a race of infidels. The religious element must be reintroduced into education. Religion must be planted when the soul of the child is forming.... The Catholic people are taxed but their schools receive no share of that taxation."

From this we are bound to infer that it is not merely the right or privilege of teaching Catholicism that hurts the Monitor most, but the fact that the Christian religion, in every form, has lost its hold upon the American people and for Romish aggrandizement a desire is felt to force religious instruction upon children in the public schools in the hope that as the child is taught the man will afterwards be. All Free thinkers must enjoy the candid admission that Christianity has lost its power and potency as a factor in our public life. Happy, indeed, will be the day when its last vestige has been shimmered and shorn so that it can no longer be recognized. The cry that the millions "never enter a church" is cruelly suggestive of the sinister motive that underlies the entire screed. It is this fact that hurts. Deprived of its unholy power to compel an observance of religion, losing its privilege of coercion, it now seeks to cajole and under the seemingly plausible plea of constitutional rights would compel a public support of that which the people have practically abandoned.

One thing is sure and the Monitor can write it down in plain and legible characters, namely, not a dollar of the public school fund will ever again be spent with the consent and knowledge of the American people for the dissemination and propaganda of any religious sects. Happily for the people that day is passed. The light of a greater liberty has dawned upon the American people and religion must be self-supporting, self-sustaining, or it must perish. If any religious system fails in perpetuation as a result of its intrinsic worth, the sooner it dies the better. The confession that we are becoming a "race of infidels" is a truthful admission from an unexpected source.

As an illustration of how much such a system of spoliation as that desired by the Catholic church would work, we need but refer to the recent action of the Jewish synagogues in New York sent the observance of the Christian festival in New York. The celebration of Christmas has been converted into a purely Christian festival. The orthodox Jews do not observe it or entertain any regard for it. Conceding the right of every believer in Christ-mas to observe it in his own way, the Jewish rabbis in New York uttered a powerful protest against its compulsory observance in the public schools of that city. It follows, then, if the Catholics have a right to recognition in the use of their parochial schools, the Jews have an equal right to recognition in being compelled to observe a religious festival wholly at variance with their established beliefs. Carrying this argument to its logical conclusion we must infer that if the government were required, by constitutional right, to give support to the Roman Catholic parochial school system from the public school fund, it would have the right to compel children in the public schools to repeat mass and attend the confessional. As the government has not the right to do the one it has no right to do the other.

## MISSIONARIES NOT WANTED IN JAPAN.

We have often said that as mischief breeders the Christian missionaries take the cake, and this contention finds corroboration from sources that the Christian world must regard as being above suspicion.

From Japan the candid statement comes that no more foreign missionaries are wanted in that country and the inference is given that many now there would find it better for their personal comfort and convenience did they make a speedy exit from the dominions of the Mikado. It is evident that of the inconsequential elements in Japan that have embraced, or profess to have embraced Christianity, and renounced the religion of Buddha in its place, there is a big sized row which may culminate in the retirement of all the Christian missionaries now in Japanese fields and the control of this branch of religious endeavor being assumed by natives.

As in all religious differences, the chief trouble is in the handling and use of the funds contributed by over-zealous fanatics for missionary enterprises. Heretofore the missionary has had absolute control of the funds and the converts. Now the converts have reached that stage wherein they insist upon controlling the money and even the missionary. Naturally the missionary resents such a pro-





Storer, in my opinion, as a diplomat.

man of both the old parties, and am f

... an independent thought. In

inker.

Christ was not punished in our stead

ternity must wait till we have fin-

(By one who knows).

ESS JAY BEN

WHAT THE CHECKER DOES

blinker.

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1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 26